

Sample letter to the editor:

Dear editor:

Lawmakers in Lansing are considering an educational proposal that, if enacted, would result in higher taxes or cuts to important state programs. It would mean cuts in aid to Michigan's neediest residents, continued maintenance of our state's roads or less money to local governments to support public safety.

The proposal has the laudable goal of trying to get more money to public education. It would give schools, community colleges and public universities a funding increase at the rate of inflation or 5 percent, whichever is less.

But when you look behind the rhetoric of the proposal's supporters, you'll see how flawed this idea is. The extra money that would go to education would have to come from somewhere. A recent nonpartisan estimate of the cost of the proposal put it at more than \$1.5 billion — in the first year alone.

This would leave with us with few options for funding this proposal — deep cuts to the programs we depend on. Or it means higher taxes for us all.

Please contact your representative and senator in Lansing to tell them this proposal guaranteeing funding is one that Michigan can't afford.